

CLAIMS

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1. An electronic image pickup apparatus comprising:

a housing housing a lens unit and having a lens opening for introducing light into the lens unit;

a pair of guide grooves extending parallel with each other on an outer surface of the housing with the lens opening interposed therebetween; and

a lens barrier having both end portions engaged with the paired guide grooves and being movable between a close position for closing the lens opening and an open position for opening the lens opening while the both end portions being guided by the paired guide grooves, wherein

one of the paired guide grooves opens in a cross direction crossing a front direction to which a front surface area, in which the lens opening is formed, on the outer surface of the housing, is directed, and the other of the paired guide grooves opens in the front direction on the outer surface of the housing,

one of the both end portions of the lens barrier corresponding to the one guide groove is inserted into and engaged with the one guide groove, and is slidable along the one guide groove,

the other of the both end portions of the lens barrier corresponding to the other guide groove is inserted into and engaged with the other guide groove,

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and slidable along the other guide groove, and

a separation protection member is fixed on the
outer surface of the housing (10) to engage with the
other end portion of the lens barrier in the front
5 direction and to prevent the other end portion of the
lens barrier from separating from the opening of the
other guide groove.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the
one guide groove is formed in a lower surface area,
10 located below the front surface area and extending in
directions crossing the front surface area, in the
outer surface of the housing and wherein

the other guide groove is formed in the front
surface area in the outer surface of the housing.

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